Remarks

Applicants request reconsideration of the Application in view of this Amendment.

Claim 44 is cancelled and rewritten in allowable form as new claim 50.

Claims 32, 34, and 47 are cancelled.

Claim 31 is amended to recite a pair of spaced-apart parallel concrete forms having opposite form surfaces. Support is found in the specification at page 9 with reference to Fig. 17. As previously recited in the claim, the distance between the form surfaces is less than the distance from the open end of the box to the free end portions of the spring legs. This places the spring legs under bending stress when the box is positioned between the form surfaces as further recited in the claim. Amended claim 31 thus recites the spring legs for holding the mud box between the opposite form surfaces, in addition to the bendable strap for attaching the mud box to the reinforcement rods in the space between the opposite form surfaces.

Shohachi does not disclose a pair of spaced-apart parallel concrete forms having opposite form surfaces, with resilient spring legs pressed against one form surface to hold the open end of the box against the opposite form surface. Instead, Shohachi discloses only spring legs for attaching the box to reinforcement rods behind a single form surface. Moreover, the supporting members 71 of Shohachi are not flat straps as recited in claim 31, but instead are cylindrical rods, as best shown in Shohachi's Fig. 43. The translated abstract of Shohachi explains that the supporting member is "formed into round section so as to manually bend it freely in the three-dimensional direction." Flat straps do not have round sections are not freely bendable in three dimensions. Shohachi thus teaches away from the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Shohachi does not anticipate claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or make it obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 43 also recites "flat bendable metal straps" which, as described above with reference to claim 31, are not disclosed or made obvious by Shohachi.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment places the Application in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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